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Canada Fisheries, Dept. of

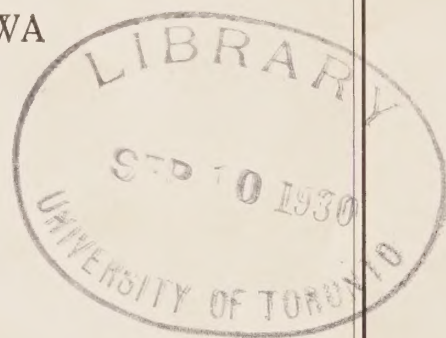
# THE FISHERIES OF CANADA

A Brief Bulletin of Salient Facts as to the Fisheries  
Resources and Fishing Industry of  
the Dominion

Issued on the Occasion of the First Joint Convention of the  
United States Fisheries Association and the Canadian  
Fisheries Association at Montreal, Canada, September 11th,  
12th and 13th, 1930.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, OTTAWA

HON. E. N. RHODES, M.P., Minister



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# The Fisheries of Canada

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## *In Days Long Past*

There is authentic record of fishing being carried on off Canada's coasts by European vessels in the 15th Century, and there is reason to believe they fished these grounds even much earlier than that.

John Cabot, in 1498, applied to the mainland of North America the name "Bacalaos", which was the word for codfish in the language of Basques whom he found fishing off the shore. When Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence in 1534 he found that fishermen from the Old World had preceded him. In 1599 fishermen from France established a base at Tadoussac, Quebec. Four years later a grant of the fisheries of Canada was made to Sieur de Monts by the King of France.

## *Rich Endowment*

The Dominion's fishing grounds are perhaps the most extensive in the world. From Grand Manan to Labrador, on the Atlantic Coast, the shore line measures over 5,000 miles, exclusive of lesser bays, and fish are to be taken everywhere. There are 15,000 square miles of inshore waters. In the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and ocean waters adjacent to Canada there is an area of 200,000 square miles and more, or four-fifths of the area of the fishing grounds of the North Atlantic. Great fishing "banks" lie close to ports of Canada.

Inland, there is a great series of lakes which contain more than half the fresh water of the globe and abound in fish. Northward are other great lakes and rivers where commercial fish are known to exist and fisheries development waits only on the advance of settlement and the creation of transportation facilities.

On the Pacific Coast is a shore line of more than 7,000 miles bordering waters enormously prolific of salmon and other fish.

What fisheries resources exist in Hudson Bay, with an area greater than the Mediterranean, is not yet definitely known and is at present the subject of investigation by an expedition which has been sent to the Bay by the Department of Fisheries. The presence of commercial fish in Hudson Bay is known but in what quantity they occur remains to be established.

## *Fisheries Control*

All fisheries regulations for Canada are made by the Dominion authorities, but in many cases the administration of the fisheries is in provincial hands. The tidal fisheries of British Columbia and the three Maritime Provinces—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island—are administered by the Dominion, as are the fisheries of the Magdalen Islands, in Quebec, and those of the Yukon Territory. By agreement with the Province, the Dominion also administers the non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia. In Quebec, apart from the Magdalen Islands, and in Ontario and in Manitoba the fisheries are under provincial control. The fisheries of Saskatchewan and of Alberta, at present controlled by the Dominion, will pass under provincial authority at the end of the present month.



## *The March Forward*

At Confederation, in 1867, the annual value of the fisheries production of the new Dominion was \$6,000,000, or less. At the beginning of the present century the figure had become \$21,500,000. In 1910 it was nearly \$30,000,000. Increase has continued steadily. In the five year period, 1920-1924, the average annual marketed value of fisheries production was \$42,615,000 and in the past five years it increased to \$53,000,000.

In the calendar year 1929 fisheries production had a marketed value of \$53,520,000 in round figures. Sea Fisheries production was \$44,930,000 and Inland Fisheries production \$8,590,000. The salmon fishery yielded the largest return—\$15,009,000. The lobster fishery was second in point of marketed value of product,—\$5,696,000—and the cod fishery third,—\$5,394,000. Whitefish production was first in the Inland Fisheries with a marketed value of \$2,455,000.

By provinces, the marketed values in 1929 were as follows:

British Columbia.. . . .	\$23,930,692
Nova Scotia.. . . .	11,427,491
New Brunswick.. . . .	5,935,635
Ontario.. . . .	3,919,144
Quebec.. . . .	2,933,339
Manitoba.. . . .	2,745,205
Prince Edward Island.. . . .	1,297,125
Alberta.. . . .	732,214
Saskatchewan.. . . .	572,871
Yukon Territory.. . . .	24,805

## *Capital and Workers*

Capital investment in the Canadian fishing industry is about \$62,335,000. It has more than doubled since 1915. Since 1900 it has increased by more than 450 per cent.

The number of persons directly employed in the industry last year was 80,400. Of this number, about 64,000 were engaged in the primary operations of catching and landing fish, and the others in fish canning and curing plants.

## *Fisheries and Foreign Trade*

Exports of fish and fish products in 1929 had a value of \$35,970,000, or nine times the value of the importations, which were worth \$3,826,000. Since 1900 the value of the annual fisheries export business has increased by 235 per cent. The exports include all varieties of fresh and frozen fish, smoked, canned, pickled, drysalted, mild-cured, and dried fish of various kinds, and fish products such as oil, meal, and fertilizer.

Exports in 1929 went to every continent, to some 100 countries. The largest single item, in point of value, was canned salmon. Some 30 foreign countries bought Canadian canned salmon to the value of \$8,865,000. Canada's biggest export business in fish was done with the United States which made purchases totalling over \$15,367,000. Sales to the United Kingdom amounted to something more than \$3,684,000.

## *Fish Culture Work*

Over 40 fish hatcheries and related establishments are conducted by the Fish Culture Division of the Department of Fisheries. They are engaged in the propagation of Atlantic salmon; Pacific salmon (sockeye, coho, spring, steelhead, and Kennerly's); trout, including the speckled, brown, Loch Leven, Rainbow, Cut-throat, and Kamloops varieties; pickerel; and whitefish. Eggs, fry, fingerlings, etc., are distributed by the Division for stocking new waters and re-stocking others. In 1929 the total distribution from the hatcheries was 570,287,381.

## *Research and Experimentation*

Four scientific stations for the study of fisheries problems are maintained by the Dominion and are conducted by the Biological Board of Canada. Two are biological stations, one at St. Andrew's, N.B., and one at Nanaimo, B.C., for the study of questions of fish life. Two are experimental stations, one at Halifax, N.S., and the other at Prince Rupert, B.C., and are engaged in the examination of practical problems of the fishing industry and in experiments for the development of improved methods of handling and processing fish. A permanent staff of scientists is employed by the Board.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES,

OTTAWA, September 11th, 1930.







